1: Nadel, Siegfried Frederick. A Black Byzantium: The Kingdom of Nupe in Nigeria. London: Published for the International Institute of African Languages and Cultures by the Oxford University Press, 1942.

Pp. xvi, 420; 16 plates; tables and charts; 5 maps, 2 end maps.

Yale: BK16 94

[This volume is the major source on Nupe culture. It is focused on political and economic organization, revealing in particular the reciprocal relations between these and the religious and legal systems.

The political organization is described in terms of the contemporary relations between the quasi-feudal state and the various ethnic groups and economic classes in the total community. Particular attention is paid to urban-rural relationships and differences. Political organization is also explained historically as the outcome of earlier tribal structures, the Fulani conquest, and new economic and political forces under British rule.

In the discussion of economic organization, Nadel introduces records of actual time and labor involved in production, detailed descriptions of selling methods, and the amount of profit and how it is spent. An important

1: Nadel, Siegfried Frederick.

chapter discusses the interrelationships of standards of living, cultural requirements, wealth, status and prestige.

While this is a very complete monograph insofar as sociopolitical and economic organization are concerned, data on human biology, material culture, language and warfare are largely absent. A discussion of religion was reserved for a later volume (2: Nadel). At the time of his death in 1956, Nadel was Professor of Anthropology at the Australian National University. --Analyst]

Field date: 1934-1936
Analyst: Timothy J. O'Leary

Evaluation: Ethnologist - 5
Processed in 1958

2: Nadel, Siegfried Frederick. Nupe Religion. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul Ltd., 1954.

Pp. x, 288; 16 plates.

Yale Divinity School: OG26 N124n

[This source is primarily a functional study of the religious life of the Nupe. The theology of the group is discussed thoroughly, then the ceremonial life proper, including rites of passage. Medical and mental therapy are next described, and finally witchcraft and the measures against it are treated. This material is handled without reference to Islam, in order to clarify the aboriginal situation. The final chapters take up the Islamization of Nupe, as well as the practice of the religion within the tribe, and deal with the effects of other religions on Nupe. A section is also included on divination. --Analyst]

Field date: 1934-1936
Analyst: James R. Leary

Evaluation: Social Anthropologist-5
Processed in 1958

3: Forde, Daryll. The Nupe. In Daryll Forde, ed., Peoples of the Niger-Benue Confluence. Ethnographic Survey of Africa. Western Africa, Part 10, pp. 17-52. London: International African Institute, 1955.

Yale: Nkd74 Et3 III. 10

[This is a summary sketch of Nupe culture by a British social anthropologist, dealing with materials published as late as 1952. Sections include: tribal and sub-tribal groupings and demography; traditions of origin and history; language; physical environment; main features of economy; social organization and political system; cultural features and the life cycle; and religious beliefs and cults. Main reliance is placed upon the works of Nadel. --Analyst]

Field date: no date
Analyst: Timothy J. O'Leary

Evaluation: Ethnologist - 4
Processed in 1958

4: Temple, O. Notes on the Tribes, Provinces, Emirates and States of the Northern Provinces of Nigeria Compiled from Official Reports. Second edition, edited by C. L. Temple. Lagos, Nigeria: The C. M. S. Bookshop, 1922.

Pp. iv, 578.

Yale: Nkd82 919tb

[Only pp. 319-335, dealing with the Nupe, have been processed for the FF52 Nupe file.]

[The material in this source was compiled from reports, assessment reports, annual and monthly reports, official letters, etc., which were kept at the Secretariat and the Provincial Headquarters of the Colony of Nigeria. The material is not presented in synthetic form, the various items of information available being brief and irregular in quality. Included is information on war, law, population, the Mallams, the position of women, and the various subgroups within the Nupe state. The compilation was stopped in October 1916. --Analyst]

Field date: no date
Analyst: Timothy J. O'Leary

Evaluation: Government Official-4
Processed in 1958

5: Nadel, Siegfried Frederick. The Kede: A Riverain State in Northern Nigeria. In Meyer Fortes and Edward Evans Evans-Pritchard, eds., African Political Systems, pp. 164-195. London: Oxford University Press for the International African Institute, 1940.

1 map

Yale: Nkd18 940f

[This is a study of the political organization of the Kede, a completely Mohammedanized section of the Nupe tribe living on the Niger and Kaduna Rivers. Their economic pursuits and general social life center around the rivers on which they live - thus their social and cultural life, as well as their political organization, present features which are absent in the rest of Nupe. Among the topics discussed are: demography; history and settlement pattern; political organization; social stratification; economic organization; and the evolution of the Kede state, all of which are discussed from a functional standpoint. --Analyst]

Field date: 1934-1936
Analyst: Timothy J. O'Leary

Evaluation: Ethnologist - 5
Processed in 1958

6: Anonymous. Crafts of Bida. Nigeria Magazine, No. 49, pp. 138-147. Lagos: Government of Nigeria, 1956.

Yale: Bk16A B85 A45 48-51

[This source is a brief, well-illustrated popular account of the glass-working and brass-smithing crafts of Bida, the capital of Nupe. Some indications are given of the effects of changing modern conditions. --Analyst]

Field date: no date
Analyst: Timothy J. O'Leary

Evaluation: Unknown - 4
Processed in 1958

7: Nicholson, W.E. Bida (Nupe) Pottery. Man, Vol. 34, pp. 71-73. London: The Royal Anthropological Institute, 1934.

Yale: Nk10 /M31 v. 34-35

[This article describes the detailed procedure of a potter in Bida, Niger Province, and includes data on workers, varieties, preparation of the clay, building of the pot, its decoration, coloring and sale. It is a brief note of special interest, but based on personal observation and well reported--Analyst]

Field date: no date
Analyst: George R. Bedell

Evaluation: Unknown-5
Processed in 1961

8: Walker, S.W. Gabi Figures and Edegi, First King of the Nupe. Man, vol. 34, pp. 169-172 and 1 plate. London: The Royal Anthropological Institute, 1934.

Yale: Nk10 / M31 v. 34-35

[This report describes several cast metal figures observed by the author in the Middle Niger region, and presents a legendary history of the first king of the Nupe which may explain the origin of the figures. In addition, there is a note on chains similar to those mentioned in the same legend which were used as a device for the execution of criminals. This article, illustrated with photographs and drawings, refers to other writings which might well be consulted for further treatment of the same subject. --Analyst]

Field date: ca. 1933
Analyst: George R. Bedell

Evaluation: Government Official-5
Processed in 1961

9: Nadel, Siegfried F. The King's Hangmen: a judicial organization in Central Nigeria. Man, Vol. 35, no. 143, pp. 129-132 plus one plate. London: The Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, 1935.

Yale: Nk10 +M31 v. 34-35.

[This is an original work describing the functions and historical development of the institution of royal executioner. The article explains the presence in modern times of the sacred chains, once used as an executionary device, in a number of specific Nupe villages. There is a discussion of the role of the executioner, traditions relating to the office, and concepts of crime and justice as interpreted by the author. Nadel was well acquainted with the Nupe and is considered the foremost authority on their culture.--Analyst]

Field date: 1934-1935
Analyst: George R. Bedell

Evaluation: Social Anthropologist-5
Processed in 1961